

MR. SEWARD'S DIPLOMATIC CIRCULAR.  
Review of Recent Military Events.  
PROSPERITY OF THE STATES  
THE FAILING CAUSE OF THE REBELS  
PROGRESS OF EMANCIPATION.

# New-York Tribune.

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## CIRCULAR NO. 39.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 12, 1863.  
SIR: Whenever the United States have complained of the premature decrees of Great Britain and France, which accorded the character of a belligerent to the insurgents, the statesmen of those countries have answered, that from the first they agreed in opinion that the efforts of the Government to maintain the Union, and preserve the integrity of the Republic, could not be successful. With a view to correct this judgment of so vital a question, I addressed a circular letter to the representatives of the United States in foreign countries on the 14th day of April, 1862, in which I reviewed the operations of the war on sea and land, and presented the results which had attended it down to that period. The prejudice, which I then attempted to remove, still remains, and it constitutes the basis of all that is designed or undesignedly injurious to this country in the policy of foreign nations. The insurgents have been enabled to protract their resistance by means of sympathy and aid they have received from abroad, and the expectation of further and more effective foreign assistance is now their chief resource. A new effort, therefore, to correct that prejudice is demanded equally by a prudent concern for our foreign relations, and by the paramount interests of peace and humanity at home.

In the battles of August, 1862, the Union forces suffered some severe and appalling reverses. But they resulted in the reunion of the army which had been called in from the Peninsula, below Richmond, with the army which had its position between that strongly fortified seat of the insurrection and this capital. The wisdom of this reunion was soon to be indicated. The insurgent army, flushed with its recent successes, and expecting that a sympathetic interest of slavery would produce an uprising of the people of Maryland in its favor, for the first time crossed the Potomac River. Harper's Ferry, with many prisoners, fell into its hands, rather through accidents in preparing its defense than because it was indefensible. Nevertheless, the expectation of recruits signally failed. Gen. McClellan, commanding the new consolidated forces of the army of the Potomac, was reinforced by fresh levies from Pennsylvania, and by detachments called in from neighboring forts. He drove the insurgents from their positions at South Mountain and Crampton's Gap. About the middle of September the two opposing armies confronted each other at Sharpsburg, and a pitched battle was fought on the banks of the Antietam and Potomac. It was well sustained on both sides. Men of one race and training directed the armies whose rank and file were substantially of one blood, and even nearly equal in numbers. The arrogant assumption of superior valor and heroism which the insurgents had brought into the contest and had cherished throughout its early stages, perished on that sanguinary field. The insurgent army, shattered in the conflict, abandoned the invasion of Maryland and sought refuge and opportunity to recover its wasted strength in Virginia behind its accustomed barrier, the Potomac.

While Lee was thus attempting Maryland, the equally bold and alarming enterprise of carrying the war through Kentucky into Ohio was assigned to Bragg, who was in command of the insurgent army on the southern border of Tennessee. He, with great rapidity, moved from Chattanooga, turning the left flank of General Buell, and, appealing for re-enforcements to the slavery-inspired sentiments which existed in Kentucky and Tennessee, directed his forces against Louisville and Cincinnati. An uprising of the farmers of Ohio confronted and turned away the devastation from the latter city. Gen. Buell followed the main column of invasion, outmarched it on the way to Louisville, and obliged it to take a direction eastward. The two insurgent columns being united at Perryville, were attacked by Gen. Buell. The battle, like all of our contests, was obstinate and bloody. Bragg, after severe losses, retreated through a comparatively barren region, and Buell was obliged to abandon the pursuit by the complete exhaustion of all sources of supply. The insurgent commander crossed the Cumberland mountains, and then, marching westward, took up a position at Murfreesboro', fortified there, and proceeded to recruit his wasted forces.

Van Dorn and Price were at the same period in command of very considerable forces in Mississippi and Alabama, and to them was assigned the third part in the grand invasion of the loyal States which the rebel army had decreed. This was an attempt, as they called it, to deliver, but in fact to subjugate Western Tennessee and Kentucky. Gen. Rosecrans received the assault of those portions of the insurgent forces at Corinth, defeated them with great slaughter, and drove them backward, so that they neither reached nor approached the region which they were appointed to invade. Gen. Rosecrans, called to succeed Gen. Buell in command of the Army of the Cumberland, then entered Nashville, which the insurgents had before invested in carrying out their general scheme of invasion. He raised the siege and prepared for offensive action. In the last days of the year he issued from Nashville, and delivered a sanguinary battle at Stone River, which gave him possession of Murfreesboro', Bragg retreated to Shelbyville and Tullahoma, and there again rested and entrenched. A long period of needed rest was now employed by the respective parties in increasing the strength and efficiency of their armies; but this repose was broken by frequent skirmishes, and by cavalry expeditions, which penetrated hostile regions, sometimes hundreds of miles, and effected breaches of military connections and a destruction of military stores upon an extensive scale, while they kept up the spirit of the troops, and hardened them for more general and severe conflicts.

Vicksburg then remained in the hands of the insurgents, the principal key to the navigation of the Mississippi River, a navigation which was confessed on all sides to be absolutely essential to the United States, and, when reopened by them, fatal to the insurrection. The duty of wresting that key from the insurgents had been devolved on the navy, with the aid of a considerable land force then encamped on the west bank of the Mississippi River. But new and unforeseen difficulties continually baffled the enterprise, and seemed to render it impossible. Gen. Grant, who was the head of the department and of the Army of the Tennessee, at length assumed the active com-

mand of the troops investing the stronghold, and these were adequately re-enforced. The naval squadron on the Mississippi, under command of Rear-Admiral Porter, was also steadily increased until more than 100 armed vessels were employed upon the river, including many iron-clad gunboats of great power. Part of the Gulf Squadron, under Admiral Farragut, gallantly running the batteries of Port Hudson under a fierce fire, co-operated with the river fleets. Laborious and persevering attempts were made to open an artificial channel for the river opposite Vicksburg, as had been done with such signal success at Island No. 10. But the various canals, projected and executed, failed, and only a few small steamers of no considerable power were thus enabled to pass the city. Combined land and naval expeditions were also sent forth, which with infinite pains and endurance, attempted to turn the enemy's works by navigating the various bayous and singular rivers, whose intricate network forms so singular a feature of the military topography of the banks of the Mississippi. All these attempts having failed from physical obstacles found to be insurmountable, General Grant and Admiral Porter at last put aboard armed steamers and steam-tugs, which ran through the fires of the long line of shore batteries which the insurgents had erected at Vicksburg, and its chief supports, Warrenton and Grand Gulf. At the same time the land forces moved down the right bank of the river to a point below Grand Gulf, where they crossed in the steamers which had effected so dangerous a passage. The batteries of Grand Gulf for several hours resisted a bombardment by the gunboats at short range, but they fell into the hands of the Admiral as soon as General Grant's forces appeared behind them. Gen. Grant, through a series of brilliant maneuvers—with marches interrupted by desperate battles day by day, succeeded in dividing and separating the insurgent forces. He then attacked the chief auxiliary column under Johnston, and drove it out of Jackson, the capital of Mississippi. Having destroyed the railroad bridges and military stores there, General Grant turned at once to the west. Numerous combats ensued, in all of which the loyal arms were successful. Loring, with a considerable insurgent force, was driven off toward the south-east, while Pemberton, after a loss of sixty pieces of artillery and many prisoners, regained his shelter within the fortified lines of Vicksburg, with an army now reduced to between thirty thousand and forty thousand men. During these movements the heavy batteries of the insurgents which were established near the mouth of the Yazoo river, and which constituted an important part of the defensive system of Vicksburg, were taken and used by Rear-Admiral Porter, who thereupon sent a detachment of his fleet up that important tributary of the Mississippi, and effectually destroyed the numerous vessels and stores which were found within and upon its banks. General Grant, during these brilliant operations, had necessarily operated by a movable column. He now re-established his communications with the river fleets above as well as below Vicksburg, invested the town, and, ignorant of the numbers enclosed within its defenses, attempted an assault. Though bravely and vigorously made, it was nevertheless unsuccessful. He thereupon sat down before the fortifications, to reduce them by the less bloody, but sure methods of siege. Pemberton made a gallant defense, hoping for relief from Johnston. Strenuous efforts were made by the chiefs at Richmond to enable Johnston to render that assistance. They detached and sent to him troops from Bragg's army on the frontier of Alabama, and from Beauregard's command in South Carolina, and in doing this they endangered both those armies. All the capable free men of Mississippi were called to the rescue of the capital of their State, and to save the stronghold of the treasonable Confederacy which was besieged within their lines. Moreover, the besieged post was in the very heart of the slave population of that Confederacy, and the President's proclamation of freedom would be sounded in their hearing if the stronghold should fall. But the effort required was too great for the demoralized and exhausted condition of the insurgents. Johnston did not arrive to raise the siege, nor did success attend any of the attempts from within to break the skillfully drawn lines of General Grant. On the fourth of July General Pemberton laid down his arms and surrendered the post, with thirty thousand men, two hundred pieces of artillery, seventy thousand small arms, and ammunition sufficient for a six years' defense. This capture was as remarkable as the famous one made by Napoleon at Ulm.

On the same day an insurgent attack upon General Prentiss, at Helena, situated on the west bank of the Mississippi, in the State of Arkansas, was repulsed with the loss of many prisoners on the part of the assailants. As if the anniversary so identified with the nation's hopes was appointed to be peculiarly eventful, Lee, who had again entered Maryland, and passing through that State had approached the Susquehanna, threatening Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, fell back, after pitched battles continued for three days at Gettysburg, and resumed his retreat, with an army even worse shattered than before, to his accustomed position on the Rappahannock.

On the 8th of July the insurgent garrison at Port Hudson, 6,000 strong, after enduring a long siege with the utmost courage, surrendered unconditionally to Gen. Banks; and thus the United States recovered from the insurgents the last of the numerous posts by which for more than two years they had effectually destroyed the navigation of the Mississippi. This great river, which in time of peace contributes relatively as much toward a supply of the increased wants of mankind as the Nile did to those wants in the time of the Roman Empire, is now again opened to the inland commerce of the country. Steamers descend the river and its tributaries from the navigable floods to the Gulf of Mexico. It is not to be doubted that the insurgent losses in these operations upon the Mississippi amount to 50,000 men and 300 pieces of artillery, a large portion of which were of heavy caliber. Johnston's army, which, at the time of the surrender, was advancing to threaten the besiegers, at once fell back to Jackson, and it was again driven from that capital by a detachment which Gen. Grant had committed to the command of Gen. Sherman. In retreating, Johnston fired many buildings filled with munitions of war, and abandoned a large quantity of railroad locomotives and cars, which had been detained at that place by reason of the railroads north, south, east and west of

Jackson having been previously cut by the Government forces.

General Sherman now desisted from the pursuit of Johnston and returned to Vicksburg, where a portion of the army is enjoying repose, not more necessary than well earned, while others are engaged in expelling from the vicinity of the Mississippi, roving bands of the insurgents who infect its banks and fire from thence upon passing steamers. It is reported that Johnston, with the troops at his command, now said to be twenty-five thousand, has fallen back to Meridian, on the eastern border of Mississippi, a hundred and twenty miles east of Vicksburg, so that the State, whose misguided people were among the earliest and most intemperate abettors of the insurrection, is virtually abandoned by its military agents.

In Louisiana, General Banks succeeded General Butler. After spending some months in organizing the Department, and disciplining the new levies which constituted its force, General Banks made a rapid and successful series of marches and combats, in which he drove the insurgent troops out of the Attakapas and Teche regions, well known as the richest portions of that very productive State, captured Alexandria and Donaldsonville, the seats of its fugitive seditious executive and legislative authorities, crossed the Mississippi at Bayou Sara, and there receiving an additional column which was ascending from Baton Rouge, invested Port Hudson, which, excluding Vicksburg, was the only remaining stronghold of the insurrection on the great river.

It will be remembered that on the 23d day of September, 1862, the President issued a proclamation requiring the insurgents to lay down their arms and return to their allegiance, under the penalty that in all the districts where the insurrection should be still maintained with the support of the people, he would on the first of January then next proclaim as a military measure, the freedom of the slaves. The warning was generally rejected and defied, but the proclamation which it heralded was duly issued. As the national armies advanced into the insurrectionary territories, slaves in considerable numbers accepted their freedom and came under the protection of the national flag. Amidst the great prejudice and many embarrasments which attended a measure so new and so divergent from the political habits of the country, freedmen with commendable alacrity enlisted in the Federal Army. There was in some quarters a painful inquiry about their moral capacity for service. That uncertainty was brought to a sudden end in the siege of Port Hudson. The newly raised negro regiments exhibited all necessary valor and devotion in the military assaults which were made, with desperate courage, and not without fearful loss, by General Banks. This protracted operation engaged nearly all of General Banks' available forces. While it was going on insurgent troops which were called up from Texas recaptured much of the south-western portion of Louisiana which he had before reclaimed. The surrender of Port Hudson, however, set his army at liberty, and he has already made considerable progress in restoring the national authority thus temporarily displaced.

The complete occupation of the Mississippi by the national forces has effectually divided the insurrectionary region into two parts, and among the important features of this division, one which is of the highest practical significance is, that the field of military operations of the insurrection is chiefly on the eastern side of the river, while its supplies have been mainly drawn from the prairies of Arkansas and Texas, which stretch away from the western shore. These prairies can no longer supply the insurgents with cattle for sustenance and use in the field, and, on the other hand, arms, ordnance and ammunition can no longer be sent from the eastern manufactories and deposits to forces employed or in garrison in the west. The value of the acquisition of the Mississippi in this respect was illustrated only a few days since in the capture by Gen. Grant, near Natchez, of 5,000 boxes and 2,000 mules, which had crossed to the eastern bank, and at the same time many hundred thousands of cartridges and other stores which had just been landed at the western end of the same ferry.

A vigorous blockade has been maintained at Charleston, and although fast steamers, of light draught and painted with obscure colors, occasionally succeed in slipping through the blockading squadron in the morning and evening twilight, many are destroyed and more are captured. An attack by the fleet, made on the 7th day of April last, upon the forts and batteries which defended the harbor, failed because the rope obstructions in the channel fouled the screws of the iron-clads and compelled them to retire after passing through the fire of the batteries. Those vessels bore the fire of the forts, although some defects of construction were revealed by the injuries they received. The crews passed through an unexampled cannonade with singular impunity. Not one life was lost on board of a monitor. The defects disclosed have been remedied, and an attack is now in progress, with good prospect of ultimate success, having for its object the reduction of the forts in the harbor by combined sea and land forces. We occupy more than half of Morris Island with land forces, which, aided by batteries afloat and batteries ashore, are pushing siege works up to Fort Wagner, a strong earthwork which has been twice assaulted with great gallantry, but without success. On the 17th of June, the Atlanta, which was regarded by the insurgents as their most formidable iron-clad vessel, left Savannah, and came down the Wilmington river. The national iron-clads Weehawken, Captain John Rogers, and Nahant, Commander John Downs, were in readiness to meet her. At 4 o'clock 54 minutes the Atlanta fired a rifle-shot across the stern of the Weehawken, which struck near the Nahant. At 5:15 the Weehawken, at a range of 300 yards, opened upon the Atlanta, five shots, four of which took effect on the Atlanta. She surrendered at 5:30.

Our lines have not changed in North Carolina. All attempts of the insurgents to recapture the towns from which they had been expelled have been repulsed. Much damage has been inflicted upon their communications, and valuable military stores have been destroyed by expeditions into the interior. North Carolina shows some symptoms of disaffection toward the insurgent league. Similar indications are exhibited in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas.

The situation on the York and James Rivers has

remained unchanged since the withdrawal of the army of Gen. McClellan from the Peninsula a year ago. Attempts by the insurgents to retake Williamsburg and Suffolk have been defeated, but the garrison at the latter place has been withdrawn for purely military reasons to a more defensible line.

I now return to the Army of the Potomac, which was left resting and refitting after putting an end to the first insurgent invasion of Maryland. Gen. McClellan recrossed the Potomac and entered Virginia in November, and obliged the invading forces under Lee to fall backward to Gordonsville, south of the Rappahannock. When the Army of the Potomac reached Warrenton it was placed under command of Gen. Burnside. He marched to Falmouth, hoping to cross the Rappahannock at Fredricksburg, and to move at once upon Richmond. Delays, resulting from various causes, without fault of the General, permitted the insurgents to occupy the heights of Fredricksburg, and when, at length, in December, Gen. Burnside crossed the Rappahannock, his assault upon Lee's well-fortified position failed. He skillfully recrossed the river without loss. Gen. Hooker succeeded to the command, and it was not until the beginning of May, that the condition of the river and roads permitted a renewal of offensive operations. The General crossed the Rappahannock and accepted a battle, which proved equally sanguinary to both parties, and unsuccessful to the Army of the Potomac. The heights of Fredricksburg were captured by Gen. Sedgwick's corps, but the whole army was compelled to return to the north bank of the river. After this battle Lee, in the latter part of May and in June, withdrew his army from Gen. Hooker's front, and ascending the south bank of the Rappahannock, towards the sources of the Rappahannock, entered the Shenandoah Valley, and once more tempted the fortune of war by invading the loyal States. A severe cavalry engagement at Beverly Ford unmasked this movement. The Army of the Potomac broke up its camps and marched to the encounter. The militia of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New-York flow to arms, and occupied Baltimore, Harrisburg, and the line of the Susquehanna. The two armies met at Gettysburg, in Pennsylvania, and after a fierce contest of three days duration, and terrible slaughter on both sides, the insurgents recoiled from the position held by Gen. Meade, who had been then only four days in command of the Army of the Potomac. On the fourth of July, the day of the surrender of Vicksburg, Lee retreated, passing through Chambersburg and Hagerstown to Williamsport, where the proper disposition to attack him was made by Gen. Meade. Deceived concerning the state of the river, supposed to be unfordable, Gen. Meade, hourly expecting re-enforcements, delayed the attack a day too long and the insurgents, partly by fording and partly by floating bridges, succeeded in withdrawing across the river by night, with their artillery and a great part of their baggage. Much of this baggage, as well as of the plunder which Lee had collected, was destroyed by cavalry, or thrown out of the wagons to make room for the wounded whom Lee carried off from the battle-field. He had buried most of his dead of the first day of the conflict at Gettysburg. The remainder, together with those who fell on the second and third days of the battle, in all 4,500, were buried by the victorious army. Many thousand insurgents, wounded and captives, fell into the hands of General Meade. It is not doubted that this second unsuccessful invasion cost the insurgents 40,000 men. Our own loss was severe, for the strife was obstinate and deadly. General Meade crossed the Potomac, Lee retired again to Gordonsville, where he is now understood to be in front of our forces.

While the stirring events which have been related were occurring in the East and in the West, General Rosecrans advanced upon Bragg, who, with little fighting, hastily abandoned his fortified positions of Shelbyville and Tullahoma, in Southern Tennessee. General Rosecrans took, and he yet holds them, while Bragg, with severe loss in a hurried retreat, has fallen back to Chattanooga. It is understood that his army had been already much weakened by detachments sent from it to re-enforce Johnston, with a view to raising the siege of Vicksburg.

I must not overlook the operations of cavalry. Gen. Stoneman, in connection with the movement upon Chancellorville, made a rapid and effective passage through the insurgent country, from the Rappahannock to the York River, which will be remembered among the striking achievements of the war. While our forces were operating against Vicksburg and Port Hudson, Col. Grierson, with a force of 1,500 men, left Corinth, on the northern border of the State of Mississippi, and made an expedition, in which he broke military communications, destroyed stores, and effected captures through the length and breadth of the State, and finally, with serious loss, joined the army of Gen. Banks, then engaged in the siege of Port Hudson.

John Morgan, hitherto the most successful of the insurgent partisans, recently passed around the lines of Gen. Burnside, crossed the States of Tennessee and Kentucky, moving northward, and avoiding all large bodies of our troops, he reached the Ohio River at Brandenburg, below Louisville, and seized two steamboats, with which he crossed into Indiana. Thence proceeding rapidly eastward, subsisting on the country and impressing horses as his own gave out, he traversed a portion of Indiana and nearly the whole breadth of Ohio, destroying railroad stations and bridges, and plundering the defenseless villages. The people rallied to arms under the calls of their Governors. Some of them occupied the most important points, while others barricaded the roads or hung upon the rear of the intruders. Morgan found no disaffected citizens to recruit his wasted ranks, and when he reached the Ohio his force was prevented from crossing by the gunboats and driven backward with great slaughter. His force was between 2,500 and 4,000 horse, with several pieces of artillery. Only some 300 succeeded in recrossing the Ohio and escaping into the wilds of Western Virginia. Many perished in battles and skirmishes, and the remainder, including Morgan himself, his principal officers, and all his artillery, were finally captured by the National forces. An attempt has just been made by the insurgents to invade Eastern Kentucky, which probably was begun with a view to make a diversion in favor of Morgan's escape, but the forces, after penetrating as far as Lexington, have been routed by detachments from Gen. Burnside's army, and pursued, with the capture of many prisoners and of all their artillery.

This review of the campaign shows that no great progress has been made by our arms in the east.

The opposing forces there have been too equally matched to allow great advantages to accrue to either party, while the necessity of covering the National capital in all contingencies has constantly restrained our generals and forbidden such bold and dangerous movements as usually conduct to brilliant military success. In the West, however, the results have been more gratifying. Fifty thousand square miles have been reclaimed from the possession of the insurgents. On referring to the annexed map it will be seen that since the breaking out of the insurrection, the Government has extended its forays overland through a region of two hundred thousand square miles, an area as large as Austria or France, or the peninsula of Spain and Portugal. The insurgents lost in the various field and siege operations of the month of July which I have described, one-third of their whole forces.

Jefferson Davis, the leader of the sedition, has since proclaimed a levy of all the able-bodied men within his military lines. This, if carried into effect, will exhaust the whole material of which soldiers can be made. The insurgents estimate the total number of conscripts thus to be gained at from 70,000 to 95,000. Our armies now confront the insurgents at all points with superior numbers. A draft for 300,000 more is in progress to replace those whose terms of service have expired, and to fill up the wasted ranks of our veteran regiments, and the people, just so fast as the evidence of the necessity for that measure is received and digested, submit with cheerfulness to the ascertained demands. Our armies everywhere are well equipped, abundantly fed, and supplied with all the means of transportation. The soldiers of two years' service bear themselves as veterans, and show greater steadiness in every conflict. The men, accustomed to the camp, and hardened by exercise and experience, make marches which would have been impossible in the beginning of the contest. The nation is becoming familiar with arms, and easily takes on the habits of war. Large voluntary enlistments continually augment our military force. All supplies are abundantly and cheaply purchased within our lines. The country shows no signs of exhaustion of money, material, or men. A requisition for 6,300 remount horses was filled and the animals dispatched from Washington all in four days. Our loan is purchased at par by our own citizens, at the average rate of \$1,300,000 daily. Gold sells, in our market, at 123 to 128, while in the insurrectionary region it commands 1,300 per cent premium.

Every insurgent port either blockaded, besieged, or occupied by the national forces. The field of the projected Confederacy is divided by the Mississippi. All the fortifications on its banks are in our hands, and its flood is patrolled by the national fleet.

Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware, Maryland—all slave States—support the Federal Government. Missouri has already in Convention ordained the gradual abolition of slavery, to take effect at the expiration of seven years. Four-fifths of Tennessee, two-thirds of Virginia, the coasts and sounds of North Carolina, half of Mississippi and half of Louisiana, with all their large cities, part of Alabama, and the whole sea-coast of Georgia and South Carolina, and no inconsiderable part of the coast of Florida, are held by the United States. The insurgents, with the slaves whom they yet hold in defiance of the President's Proclamation, are now crowded into the central and southern portions of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, while the pioneer slaveholding insurgents beyond the Mississippi are cut off from the main force. On the other hand, although it is less than six months since the laws or customs of the United States would allow a man of African descent to bear arms in defense of his country, there are now in the field 32,000 regularly enlisted, armed, and equipped soldiers of that class, while 50 regiments of 2,000 each are in process of organization, and 62,800 persons of the same class are employed as teamsters, laborers, and camp followers. These facts show that, as the insurrection continues, the unfortunate servile population, which was at the beginning an element of its strength, is being transferred to the support of the Union.

You will use the facts presented in this paper in such a way as may be most effective to convince those who seek a renewal of commercial prosperity through the restoration of peace in America, that the quickest and shortest way to gain that desirable end is to withdraw support and favor from the insurgents, and to leave the adjustment of our domestic controversies exclusively with the people of the United States.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

## FROM THE ARMY OF THE FRONTIER. The Enemy Routed near Fort Smith FORT SMITH IN OUR POSSESSION. Western Arkansas and the Indian Country Subdued.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13, 1863.  
The following was received at the headquarters of the army to-day:  
ST. LOUIS, Saturday, Sept. 13, 1863.  
Major-Gen. HALLOCK, General in Chief.  
Col. Cloud routed the enemy near Fort Smith on the 1st inst., and now holds that place.  
Western Arkansas and the Indian country are now in our possession. J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major-General.

**Details of the Advance Movement of Gen. Blunt's Army.**  
The telegraph has kept us pretty well informed of the rapid and successful advance movement lately performed by the hardy veterans under Gen. Blunt, but the following details will be found interesting:  
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, Sept. 9, 1863.  
Official reports received at the headquarters from Major Gen. Blunt, and dated at Perryville, Clodan, Mo., Aug. 27, 1863, state that on the 23d ult. Gen. Blunt crossed the Arkansas River with his forces for the purpose of attacking Steele, who had concentrated the forces under Gallego, Cooper, and Stand, with numbering 9,000, and posted a strong force on the Canadian River, 40 miles from Fort Blunt. After a march of 60 miles in 48 hours, he came up to the point where the enemy had been encamped, and learned that they had divided their forces and commenced to retreat. On the 25th ult. Gen. Blunt learned from his scouts that Steele and Cooper were encamped 20 miles south on the Texas road, and he immediately moved in pursuit. About 10 o'clock the same day, the advance guard met a company of Cherokees, who had been sent out to watch Gen. Blunt's movements, and killed four, taking their Captain prisoner, who informed Gen. Blunt that they belonged to a new regiment that had arrived from the Red River, were 800 strong, and posted a strong force on the advance camp upon the town of Perryville, which is closely surrounded with timber, when they were fired upon from two mounted howitzers, charged with canister, wounding four. Gen. Blunt dismounted the 6th Kansas, and advanced through the timber to within 200 yards of the barricade erected by the enemy, when a dozen shots from our howitzers made them leave it in haste.

On entering the town, Gen. Blunt was informed that the force was a strong rear-guard of the enemy, who were endeavoring to remove and destroy their commissary stores.

Perryville was a regular military post and an important depot, being the only point between Egypt Depot and North Fort Towson. As nearly every building contained Government stores, Gen. Blunt directed the burning of the whole place. Quite a large amount of clothing was captured and destroyed at their depot at North Fort Towson.

[Special Correspondence Missouri Democrat.]  
CAMP ON OZARKS RIVER, INDIAN TERRITORY, Aug. 29, 1863.  
This camp is about eighty miles south of Arkansas River, and is some twenty miles short of where Gen. Blunt, with his cavalry advance, camped night before last—a little cluster of houses on a mound, which has been called Perryville.

On the 25th Blunt crossed the Arkansas at Fort Gibson, marching southward, and bearing to the east on the trail of Steele, Cooper, and their combined army. He effected them last night, and they fled, and then he started for them, but they commenced a full retreat. He followed them with the cavalry part of his force to Perryville, making his last day's march of fifty miles between sunrise and sunset, and then he dismounted his cavalry, and with two light pieces of artillery, were encountered, but quickly fled, and that too rapidly for our exhausted men and horses.

At this place, a vast amount of commissary stores were left by the enemy in their retreat, which they had no time even to place in their wagons. Flour, bacon, ham, salt, and corn were found in great abundance. They were, of course, destroyed, and then further pursuit was useless, as well as impossible. The Rebels on a road without a resting place, till they reach Red River, and totally defeated and demoralized, as well as half-starved, took the back track, and are now on the road to Fort Smith.

This is evidently the final abandonment by the Rebels of this country. They have moved off their families and driven their stock and negroes all to Texas. The country is fully restored to the possession and occupancy of the Federal Government, and it has been done by Gen. Blunt's dauntless courage and zeal that was unwearied in spite of discouraging men, dangers, and losses, in spite of the daily loss of thousands of reinforcements, of orders to fall back, and innumerable "trees in the rear." There never was an army marched as his gallant army has marched. 35,350 and 50 miles a day, searching an enemy to fight, through dark, rainy hills, under a burning sun, and on short rations, shows that the veterans of Cane Hill and Prairie Grove have lost none of their powers of endurance, even if here shown only by fatiguing tramps instead of bloody and determined battles.

A dispatch to Fort Blunt this morning orders a supply train to Fort Smith, which will be permanently occupied as a post by the Army of the Frontier. We shall be there on the 30th.

CHEROKEE.

## FROM ARKANSAS. Gen. Steele's Work Goes Bravely On—Activity of the Guerrillas.

MEMPHIS, Wednesday, September 9, 1863.  
Official advices from Gen. Steele to the 2d of September, have reached Brownsville.  
Everything was working well, and the prospects of complete success were flattering.  
The Rebel forces in Missouri were becoming more active, and skirmishes were frequent with our cavalry, who are keeping a close watch on all their movements. Deserters and refugees come into our lines daily, and report that there is great suffering and disaffection among the Rebels, that they look upon their cause as entirely hopeless, and wish to get back again into the old Union.

The weather is extremely hot.  
It is reported that the guerrillas are actively at work below. They frequently fire on passing steamers, but as yet we can learn of no damage of any consequence done by them.

**A New Military Road—Railroad Disaster.**  
CINCINNATI, Sept. 10, 1863.  
The Commercial says: "Work on the military railroad from Nicholasville, Ky., to Knoxville, Tenn., has commenced, and will be pushed with great rapidity. A thousand men to the mile will soon be employed. Negro laborers have been impressed along the line of the road, every third slave being taken. They will be clothed and paid."  
"Unemployed negroes who have come into the Union lines, in the Southern States, are being forwarded to labor on the route. They will be paid one-third of their wages, the balance being reserved to aid in providing a home for them in a foreign country when the war is over. The City of Louisville has subscribed \$600,000 to the Lebanon Branch, and throughout the State the heartiest co-operation will be given to the great enterprise."

An excursion train on the Western division of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad ran into a gravel train on Thursday. The engineer was killed and fifteen passengers wounded.

**The Sanitary Commission.**  
DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, HEADQUARTERS IN TEXAS, FIELD, FORTS MCKINNEY, S. C., Sept. 9, 1863.  
GENERAL ORDER, No. 73.—The Brigadier-General commanding desires to make this public acknowledgment of the benefits for which his command has been indebted to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and to express his thanks to the gentlemen whose humane efforts in procuring and distributing such-needed articles of comfort have so materially alleviated the sufferings of the soldiers.

Special gratitude is due to Dr. M. M. Marsh, Medical Inspector of the Commission, through whose efficiency, energy and zeal, the wants of the troops have been promptly ascertained, and the resources of the Commission made available for every portion of the army.

By order of Brigadier-General, A. A. GILLMORE.  
E. W. SMITH, Assistant Adjutant-General.  
Official: LUTHER S. SMITH, Captain 5th N. Y. Vol., Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.